

Appl. No. 10/567,943
Amdt. And Election dated Nov. 19, 2007
Reply to Office Action of Oct. 31, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 1217-060312

ELECTION OF CLAIMS:

The Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. §§121 as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-4, drawn to a tubular reaction vessel; and

Group II: Claims 5-6, drawn to a process for producing silicon.

Applicants hereby elect for further prosecution the invention of Group I including claims 1-4.

Applicants reserve their right to file at a later time a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.48(b), there is no change in inventorship as a result of this election.

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the header on page 9, line 20, with the following amended header:

~~PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The reaction vessel may be produced by ~~known~~ known molding methods. The reaction vessel may consist of an integral body, or two or more parts joined together. A large-scale reaction vessel for industrial use is preferably constructed by connecting structural parts of the tubular reaction vessel, each of which is 1.5 m long at maximum, to obtain as uniform mechanical properties as possible of the tubular reaction vessel material. Connection of the parts may be flange connection. Preferably, the tubular reaction vessels are ditched to create a screw, and are connected together by means of the screws. In the case of the screw connection, it is preferred that the inner surface of the tubular reaction vessel is free from steps. When steps are present, silicon is locally deposited thereon from which breakage of the reaction vessel possibly takes place. --